

Volunteer!

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



The Lakeshore receives numerous inquiries each year regarding Volunteer In Park positions. This summary outlines current VIP activities providing you with an idea of the various jobs volunteers assist with at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.



When Can We Volunteer?

Most volunteer activity occurs from May through October, the Lakeshore's busy visitor season. Some winter opportunities exist in volunteer ski trail condition reporting and visitor contact.

Volunteers have assisted park staff in each operational division, though most of the assistance is through the maintenance, visitor services, interpretive, and resource management divisions.

What Do Volunteers Do?

Maintenance Division...

- Backcountry trail construction and maintenance
- Ski trail monitoring

Ranger Division...

- Backcountry patrol, monitoring, and informal interpretation
- Campground host positions in two of the Lakeshore's three vehicle accessible campgrounds

Interpretation and Education...

- Au Sable Light Station interpretation
- Visitor center information desk staffing
- Photography, and videography projects
- Interpretive programming - formal and informal at Munising Falls, Miners Castle

Science and Natural Resources...

- Exotic plant monitoring and eradication, e.g. spotted knapweed
- Vegetation plot monitoring and documentation
- Bear bait station censusing
- Gypsy moth monitoring
- Lamprey monitoring

How Long May I Volunteer?

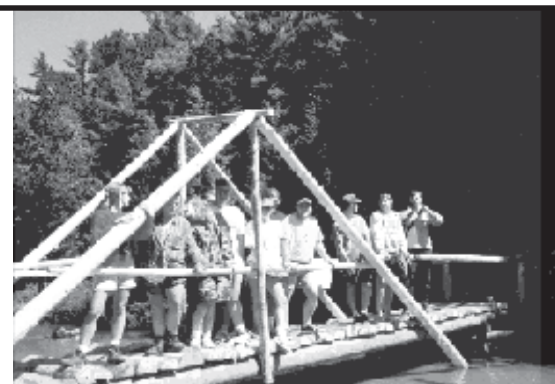
Boy Scout groups often complete one or two day work projects as they hike the Lakeshore Trail segment of the North Country Trail. Organized volunteer trail crews from universities or other organizations normally work a week or more in the park. Campground hosts are asked to sign up for a minimum four week stay. Your contribution depends on the type of work and the time you have to offer.

A general orientation to your job and the park is normal for all volunteers. Long term volunteer interpreters, for example, are asked to attend a one week training session at the beginning of the visitor season. You will be supervised by a member of the Lakeshore staff, and will be provided a VIP uniform and protective gear if required. A small stipend may be available to reimburse for travel or food expenses. Most volunteers work an eight hour day.

How Do I Become A VIP?

Send your resume, availability dates, and housing preference to the Volunteer Coordinator or call for further information. We hope this answers your initial questions. If you have specific questions regarding the program, please contact:

Pamela Baker
Volunteer Coordinator
P.O. Box 40
Munising, MI 49862
(906) 387 3700
pamela_baker@nps.gov



Volunteer Housing

Sand Point Residence

Located on Sand Point Road adjacent to lakeshore headquarters and the Sand Point Marsh Walk and beach. The house was formerly owned by U.S. Coast Guard employees in the 1940's. The house features two small bedrooms, a kitchen, living room, and storage areas. It houses up to four people. There is a television though reception is not great — but no phone (people may use the phone at headquarters via calling card.) The house is approximately five miles from downtown Munising. A phone may be installed by residents.



Sullivan's Cabin

Located off county road H-58, 13 miles west of Grand Marais between Hurricane River and Twelvemile Beach campgrounds. This two bedroom (small) knotty pine interior cabin has gas refrigerator and stove, with gas generator backup. The cabin has a fireplace. Photovoltaic roofing now provides power to the cabin which is adjacent to the Lake Superior beach and Sullivan's Creek. There is no television or phone though cell phone coverage is available in the area. The cabin houses two people comfortably.



Grand Marais Dorm

The dorm is a former U.S. Coast Guard station on Coast Guard Point in Grand Marais. The dorm has three large bedrooms on the second floor, each housing two or three people. The bedrooms have built-in locking closets. A common kitchen is also located on the second floor with two refrigerators, stove, microwave, and cable television. The downstairs is a district ranger office and maritime museum. Stores and restaurants are approximately one mile away.



The Farmhouse Dorm

The dorm is a former farmhouse, located within the park on H-58. The dorm has three small bedrooms. A common kitchen has a refrigerator, stove, microwave, and cable television. There is a pay washing machine and dryer in the basement. Stores and restaurants are approximately one mile away.



R-V Campsites

The park has two R-V campsites located adjacent to the district ranger's residence west of Grand Marais. Both sites include a picnic table, 50 amp. electrical, sewer, and water hookups. Phone service is available.